Backside charities didn’t help

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insurance or charity provided by the horse or the horse industry.
But Sweeting learned how thin the net is.

Says Sweeting should have re-

Regardless of what state law al-

Sweeting’s wife, Delphia, is one of the people who work on the farm and her former assistant, Raul Escudero, came to see him at the track with Sweeting underneath.

For Sweeting, the wounds have hardly healed.

What is workers’ comp? Workers’ compensation insurance exists to protect employees and employers in the event of disabling injuries sustained on the job. Workers are covered for lost wages and medical expenses, and employers receive protection from liability lawsuits.

Sweeting told the Lexington Herald-Leader he’s still dealing with the fallout of the fall.

Blood on the track

At dawn on April 10, 1999, the morning after Raul Escudero, then 20, fell from a horse at Keeneland and broke his back, the question of the right to workers’ compensation surfaced.

Raul Escudero, left, assistant trainer of Monarchos, was nearly killed in a training accident. Workers’ compensation paid his medical and rehab costs.

CRUSHED, REJECTED

About this series

Backside workers on Kentucky thoroughbreds earn some of the minimum wage in the country, yet many are not covered under the state’s workers’ compensation program.

Backside: Exercise riders have to shoo off a financial storm. They can compare them, but their lives are different.

The help that Sweeting did receive — beyond the small gifts from his fellow backside workers and some charities — came from his estranged wife and a social worker. Now, Escudero, who no longer trains but works primarily as a blood analyst, says he doesn’t see the point of reporting small accidents.

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